

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
RAISED BILL NO. 6641
Barbara Albert, Hartford Renter

Good morning/afternoon members of the Judiciary Committee, also to everyone else.

My name is Barbara Albert, Hartford renter, registered voter, and Advocate for the Disadvantaged, Civil and Human Rights, also for Mental Health Rights with Keep the Promise Coalition and several other volunteer organizations. I am on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security Disability since the late '80s. I have multiple medical challenges including mental illnesses. According to "scientific studies", I will die twenty five years earlier than the general population. I did used to do 'regular work' before my illnesses became too overwhelming. Now, I am called indigent, and unemployable.

This is my testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 6641, **AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT OF PERSONS WHOSE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE LACK OF CONSENT IS SUBSTANTIALLY INPAIRED**. I understand the "Statement of Purpose", is: "To provide that sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person, whose ability to resist or communicate consent is substantially impaired because of such person's mental or physical condition, constitutes the offense of sexual assault.

All kinds of abuse began at a very early age. My virginity was taken before I was even out of diapers. Various abuses continued until I could physically get away. I didn't know what was being done was wrong. Therapy for me began ten years before I got on Disability, before I was 20 years old. For my 21st birthday, the main abuser openly admitted to 'squeezing and tickling my inner thighs' to get me 'giggling'. I was very little. I still don't remember that. The main abuser said this at my 'birthday diner', while my boyfriend at the time was sitting right across from me, as I sat there, feeling totally ashamed, embarrassed, angry, and humiliated, not understanding why. I already had started seeing a therapist, because I had been hospitalized for psychiatric and substance abuse issues. There were many more humiliations, suicide attempts, self mutilations, and hospitalizations. The last time I was abused, it was forced genital contact. Other people were in the room. We were at my grandfather's funeral. No one saw, anything. I couldn't move, or speak, I needed to 'leave my body' in order to not totally 'lose it'. I was adult age. I keep asking, 'what is wrong with me?' I have no proof of this happening, other than an extensive psychiatric record, and the self mutilation, which will never match the scars on my insides.

This is why I respectfully request, support for Raised Bill No. 6641. There are still too many of us that don't talk, and/or aren't ready to remember. Or don't want to remember any more.

Stephen King once wrote," Monsters are real, and ghosts are real too. They live inside us. Sometimes they win."

Please help make sure they don't win anymore. Thank you for listening.